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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: U. S. POLAD, Trieste

DESP. NO. 311

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE: June 22, 1953

REFERENCE: Our Despatches 276 of April 27 and 307 of May 19

ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept.	OLI L P L I IBS IPS IFI
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REC'D JUN 26	ROME ATHENS TRIESTE USPOLAD

SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: ALBANIA - Resistance Activities as Described by [redacted] b(1) B-1

The following information concerning resistance activities in Albania was provided by the source.

[redacted] born in Shkoder on February 5, 1928. He taught school in PESHKOPIJA and in KELMEND before escaping to Yugoslavia in September 1950. He arrived in Trieste from Yugoslavia on May 15, 1953.

[redacted] belonged to an organized resistance movement known as BASHKIMI SHQIPTAR. The purpose of the organization is the overthrow of the Enver HOXHA regime and the establishment of a democratic government. A secondary aim is the setting up of an effective political underground. The organization is said to consist of many small independent secret cells of three persons in each of the largest towns. Small groups of seven to eight men in each small district have an appointed leader who is the only man with the names of all in his group. Armed partisans exist in the hills in bands of from five to fifty persons, rarely any larger.

The group furthered its aims by the printing and distribution of propaganda leaflets. The leaflets were distributed about once every two months in many of the larger towns and also in the remote districts of the north of Albania. They were distributed at night, stuck on walls, pushed under doors, and sent through the mail. The principal theme of the pamphlets, which were headlined "For the Albanian People-Death to Communism", was to exhort the people to resist the Hoxha regime, to provide money, food and clothing for those escaping or hiding out from the SIGURIMI. The source mentioned that one [redacted] printed leaflets for distribution in the Shkoder area but that in April or May of 1950 he was caught and sentenced to 20 years in prison. This is probably [redacted] who was reported in our Despatch 307 of May 19 as having been sentenced to jail for 15 years for resistance activities and who probably informed the secret police about other members of the resistance movement.

In furtherance of the resistance program certain members of the

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR REVIEWED by [redacted] 11/19/90 OADR
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organization were assigned the task of detecting Sigurimi agents. [redacted] worked on this task in 1947 in Shkoder. There is attached as Enclosure No. 1 a list of persons known by him to have worked for the Sigurimi.

Partisan groups were operating for the organization in the following areas of northern Albania: MAT, MARTANESH, MERDITA, PESHKOPIJA and LUME.

The manner of distributing food, supplies, money and ammunition to the partisan groups was not known to the source.

[redacted] could not say exactly, but he believed that industrial sabotage was a part of the program of the resistance movement and that it was being carried out by persons unknown to him.

An important mission of the resistance group was to link up with agencies outside of Albania. Those with which the group was actually known to be in contact, according to the source, were the following:

1. The Albanian National Liberation Committee, Piazza del Santiago Chile No. 7, Rome. The Secretary of the committee is one Gaqo GOGH. The committee directed operations involving the parachuting of groups of four or five persons in June and July 1950 to the parts of northern Albania in which the partisans were most active. The parachutists were equipped with radios, arms, money and food. They were assigned to collect information on the political, economic and military situation in Albania.

[redacted] has already been in contact with Gogh, and it is believed that he will seek employment from Gogh at a later date.

2. London. [redacted] met a man known as [redacted] who said that he was employed by a London-Albanian Association, the exact name of which is not known to [redacted] The source told about the same story which was reported in our Despatch 309 of May 19, 1953. [redacted] is now in SABAC Prison in Yugoslavia.

3. The Albanian Committee in Munich. [redacted] reports that in the Summer of 1950 two Albanians named [redacted] were parachuted by the Munich Committee into the DIBRA region in Albania. Each man carried 70 pieces of French gold coin to be used for financing the local partisans belonging to the BASHKIMI SHQIPTAR. Both of these men are reported to be also in Sabac Prison.

The resistance organization was financed through voluntary contributions from its members, ranging from 2000 to 3000 Leks per month. The source made collections of this type in the VUKEL

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area during 1949 and 1950. The money was given to one [redacted] in Shkoder. The source himself contributed about 1000 Leks per month, but he did not know how the money was used once it was delivered. Small sums of hard currency also came to the organization from outside Albania from time to time.

The Department is requested to forward processed copies of this despatch to Rome, Athens, and two copies to U.S.Polad, Trieste.

A. John Cope, Jr.
Acting U.S. Political Adviser

cc: Belgrade

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PERSONS WHO HAVE WORKED FOR SIGURIMI

1.	Kashim TRASHANI	(SCUTARI 1950)
2.	Rexhep SOKOLI	" "
3.	Gene JUKNET	" "
4.	Vehbi FISHTA	" "
5.	Dulaq LEKIQI	" "
6.	Halil ZENELI	(KUKES 1950)
7.	Niazi AGOLLI	(PESHKOPI 1949)
8.	Sali BIRJANI	" "
9.	Nazif META	" "
10.	Arif BUSHI	" "
11.	Xhap XHAFERI	" "
12.	Avdi SULA	" "
13.	Myrtezan GJOKA	" "
14.	Llesh GJOKA	(VUKEL 1950)
15.	Kol GJOKA	" "

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